

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14, 15, 26, 29, 33, 41, 63 and 64 have been amended, and claims 9-13, 22, 25, 30-32, 34-36, 42-46 and 48-62 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-6, 8, 14-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 33, 37-41, 47 and 63-65 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Claim 63 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 1 and the allowable subject matter of claim 14.

As a result, entry of the forgoing amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because these amendments simply respond to the issues raised in the final rejection, and the foregoing amendments are believed to remove the basis of the outstanding rejections, and to place all claims in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 64-65 are allowed.

Claims 4-5, 10, 14-18, 27-28, 33, 37-40, 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 14-21, 23-31, 33, 37-41, 45, 46, 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Regarding the rejection of claims 10, 25, 30, 31 and 45, it is noted that these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 10, 25, 30, 31 and 45 is moot.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner and therefore Applicants believe

that claim 1 fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2-6, 8, 14-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 33, 37-41 and 46, it is noted that these claims stand rejected due to their dependency from claim 1 and since claim 1 has been amended to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner, it is believed that claims 2-6, 8, 14-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 33, 37-41 and 46 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 14-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 33, 37-41 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 63, it is noted that claim 63 has been amended to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner and therefore Applicants believe that claim 63 fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 14-21, 23-31, 33, 37-41, 45, 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding the rejection of claims 10, 25, 30, 31 and 45, it is noted that these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 10, 25, 30, 31 and 45 is moot.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner and therefore Applicants believe that claim 1 fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2-6, 8, 14-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 33, 37-41 and 46, it is noted that these claims stand rejected due to their dependency from claim 1 and since claim 1 has been amended to correct the minor informality noted by the Examiner, it is believed that claims 2-6, 8, 14-21, 23, 24, 26-29, 33, 37-41 and 46 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 14-21, 23,

24, 26-29, 33, 37-41 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 19-21, 23-26, 29-31 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent 5,462,820).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Regarding the rejection of claims 25, 30 and 31, it is noted that these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 25, 30 and 31 is moot.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that claim 1, as amended, is allowable.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of dependent claims 2-3, 6, 8, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, 29 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn at least because of their dependence from claim 1 and the reasons set forth above, and because the dependent claims include additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 6, 8, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, 29 and 41 also distinguish over the prior art.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 19-21, 23-26, 29-31, 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Tanaka.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reason.

Regarding the rejection of claims 25, 30 and 31, it is noted that these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 25, 30 and 31 is moot.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that claim 1, as amended, is allowable.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of dependent claims 2-3, 6, 8, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, 29 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn at least because of their dependence from claim 1 and the reasons set forth above, and because the dependent claims include additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 6, 8, 19-21, 23, 24, 26, 29 and 41 also distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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